GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:264
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2008
DUMPING OF NON-BIODEGRADABLE WASTE
Gandhi Smt. Maneka

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some foreign countries are dumping their non-biodegradable waste in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the names of the countries and the non-biodegradable waste dumped by them in the country during the last three years and the current year; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a)to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 264 DUE FOR REPLY ON 17.12.2008 REGARDING "DUMPING OF NON-BIODEGRADABLE WASTE" BY SMT. MANEKA GANDHI

(a) to (d): Import of wastes is not allowed for dumping/disposal purposes in India as per the provisions of the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Trans-boundary Movements) Rules, 2008.However, recyclable wastes like plastics, paper wastes and metal scrap conforming to the specifications mentioned in the Rules are allowed for recycling by the actual users who have the necessary approval from the concerned authorities.

According to the Department of Customs,no instance of foreign countries dumping their non-biodegradable wastes in the country has been reported. However, two cases of import of waste paper mixed with no biodegradable municipal solid wastes beyond the permissible limits were noticed by the Customs Authorities during the last three years.Out of the two cases of mixed waste paper from USA, the consignment received at Kochi has been re-exported to the supplier on the directions of the authorities.The other consignment received at Tuticorin Port was also ordered for re-export by the Custom Authorities.However,in view of the pending case before the Madurai Bench of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras,the impugned cargo is still lying under the custody of Customs Authorities.A third case of e-waste from Kuwait also came to the notice of the Customs Authorities of Mumbai Zone and was re-exported.

The steps taken by the Government to control illegal dumping include legal provisions as provided in the Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling and Trans-boundary Movements) Rules, 2008 notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Customs Act, 1962 and the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992.In addition, a consent mechanism is in place under which the waste reprocessing units are required to take prior permission from the concerned State Pollution Control Boards.